GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2411
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2001
STD/ISD BOOTH IN DELHI
BAHADUR SINGH KOLI

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that the STD/ISD/PCO booth operators in Delhi are charging two rupees for one local call where as the Government rate is Rs. 1 per call;

(b) whether the Government would issue necessary direction to the booth-operators to charge one rupee for a local call instead of charging two rupees;

(c) whether the Government have conducted any raid on telephone booths to ascertain the facts;

(d) the number of telephone booths against which action was taken; and

(e) whether the Government would give advertisement in local newspapers with a view to make the general public aware about the factual position?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a) As per existing orders of department, all PCOs which are manned by handicapped persons and those where Coin Collecting Box (CCB) instruments are provided are billed at Re. 1.00 per call and otherattended PCOs are billed at Rs. 1.20 per call.Therefore, STD/ISD/PCO owners should charge Rs. 1.20 + 5% Service Tax for one local call. Some cases of over-charginghave come to the notice of MTNL, Delhi

(b)
(i) Agreement is made with STD/ISD/PCOs franchisee that he will charge correctly.

(ii) Advertisement is also given in the newspapers.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) 58 PCOs disconnected during the period 01.08.2000 to 31.11.2001. Warning issued to 25 PCOs and 99 cases are under process.

(e) Fresh advertisement will be released in local newspaper shortly.